

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681

• 891-0078

• July 2010

Word goes out: We need volunteers

Record turnover in leadership looming

As we gear up for the coming club year by electing new officers this month, an urgent message is being sent out to the membership:

We need help. What is needed are chairs and members for the several committees that make the wheels turn for our club.

If you merely suspect you might just be able to squeeze out some time, the OU Club of Austin encourages — nay, urges — you to step forward.

As the story to the right indicates, we need nominees for the four officers' positions we fill by election each summer.

And we also need, perhaps even more, people to guide our committees.

The club maintains several committees — watch parties, scholarships, special events, recruitment, membership and the annual college fairs.

There's going to be significant turnover in the club's leadership this summer, perhaps the most since our club was created in 1988. So if you think you can help, please let someone know.

One sure way to get in on the fun is to email us at austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com

Election of officers set this month on the club's website

Election of officers for 2010-11 will be conducted later this month by the OU Club of Austin.

Nominations will be received beginning this Saturday, July 17, through Friday, July 23, on the club's website. Voting then will begin, to end the following Friday, July 30.

Club members will fill four positions — president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. Other seats on the club's board of directors are filled by the president.

If you are not sure you are a current member, simply follow the registration process described below. You will be informed if you are not current, and given a chance to become current if you wish to do so.

To register, log on to the website at www.ouclubofaustin.com, click the "Create an Account" link in the upper right corner of the home page, and enter your basic information in the boxes provided. Then type the code characters displayed in the green textbox, per instructions, and click on the "Register" button.

Then you'll be asked to provide your contact information, including email address. The system then sends you an email. Go to your email in-box, click the link in the email to validate your information. Then log in and use the nomination form.

Once registered, you may then click

on the "Nominations For Officers" link on the home page, then follow the simple email process as explained for any of the four offices listed. You MAY nominate yourself. No one may run for more than one office. If nominating someone other than yourself, you will also be asked for their phone number and email address, for verification.

When nominations are closed (after Friday, July 23), a similar self-explanatory link will replace the Nominations link, located in the same place on the home page, called "Voting For Officers." Clicking that link will display a voting ballot of all verified nominees for each of the four club officer positions.

If you have any questions about this procedure, or other related questions, please email them to austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com along with your phone number and email address. A club board member will contact you as promptly as possible.

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'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: University of Oklahoma jumps six places in academic rankings of US colleges

U.S. News and World Report magazine's latest rankings of the nation's colleges lists the University of Oklahoma six places higher than the year before.

OU stands now at 102nd among several hundred American colleges, and is 48th among the nation's public universities.

The magazine rates colleges annually based on 15 factors, including college entrance exam scores, retention and graduation rates, alumni giving and peer assessment.

All-State scholars to OU The top 100 high school scholars were named recently to Oklahoma's Academic All-State list. Of these, 37 plan to enter OU later this year.

Oklahoma State University attracted 22, the University of Tulsa 5, Oklahoma Baptist 4, Oklahoma City 3, Southeastern Oklahoma St. and the University of Central Oklahoma, 1

Campus notes

each.

Four will attend Ivy League schools — Columbia (2), Cornell and Yale. Four others will enter the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, two students have chosen the University of Chicago and one selected Oxford in England.

Two students each selected Arkansas, Central Arkansas, Washington University (St. Louis), Kansas and Colorado.

Several All-State scholars have not decided their destinations yet. The remainder chose Stanford, Rice, Notre Dame, Texas, the Air Force Academy, Fordham (or perhaps Loyola Marymount) and William Jewell.

Bird watchers flock to site A TV camera installed at an OU installation near Bartlesville is proving a popular site for bald eagle watchers.

Scientists at the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center installed a camera and broadcast live pictures online this spring. The idea was to let people view incubation, prey deliveries, feeding of the young and nest defense. In the audience around the world are school classes as well as the rest of the public.

This year, the camera website was viewed in some 3.75 million hits from 60 countries over three months.

Wonderful name Perhaps you didn't know it either but we just discovered the name of the restaurant housed in the National Weather Center building at OU: the Flying Cow Cafe.

That has to be a reference to the movie "Twister," which had some fine scenes in which bovines were being tossed about in an Oklahoma tornado.

In the lobby of the NWS building, visitors can see props used in the movie. Among these are "Dorothy,"

the bucket that houses a tornado-analyzing device.

Top scientific worksite A study conducted by *Science* magazine ranks the OU Health Sciences Center at Oklahoma City the ninth best place to work in U.S. academia.

Ranked fifth in the study is the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation at Ardmore.

OU recalls a pioneer The death last month of Hannah Atkins recalled the remarkable career of a woman whose life included connections with the University of Oklahoma.

It was at OU that Mrs. Atkins was working on her doctorate when she heard the news in 1968 of Martin Luther King's assassination. The news changed her plans for the future; she determined to enter electoral politics.

She was elected later that year as the first black woman member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, serving for 12 years.

She had earned a master's degree in public administration at OU, later served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and taught library science and law at various times at the University.

OU group in Mideast Several OU journalism teachers and students visited Pakistan and Bangladesh earlier this year. There, the group conducted workshops for women journalists.

They found that the Bangladeshi journalists were young and new to journalism, while the Pakistanis were more experienced and wanted advanced training.

The Baja Oklahoman is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and friends of the University in Austin and Central Texas • Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. • An application for club membership appears on the club's website. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

Club officers — 2009-10

President	(vacant)
Vice president	Steve Watson
Secretary	Mark Carlson
Treasurer	Fred Dupy
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Rick Williamson
Events coord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	Alisa Macy
Recruitment chair	(vacant)

Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>
Webmaster: Craig Likes

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Correction

I misspelled Mariee Mena's first name in the June issue.

This was the story about the late Sooner softball pitching star who bequeathed seven internal organs for transplant.

I regret the error.

—Greg Olds

OU finishes 16th in '09-10 athletic success

Many fans of University of Oklahoma sports would tell you that 2009-10 was pretty much a down year for OU sports.

That's traceable mostly to football and men's basketball, we'd guess.

It overlooks, however, the Final Four appearance of the women's basketball team, a third nationally in men's gymnastics, a College World Series trip for the baseball team, etc.

In any case, the Sooners were ranked 16th among the nation's Division I athletic programs in success on

Sports notes

the field. This is measured each year by an outfit that compiles collegiate athletic records in determining the winner of the Sports Directors Cup.

Stanford led the pack this past year. OU was third among Big XII schools, trailing Texas A&M (13th) and Nebraska (14th) and just ahead of Texas (19th).

Omaha in 2011 OU will be headed back to the College World Series again next year. That's according to *Baseball America*, which tracks pro and amateur baseball.

The publication added that the Sooners probably will be favored to win the Big XII in 2011.

Football 2010? Top Ten Five leading college football magazines foresee a much more Soonerlike football season this fall. Thirteenth is the lowest predicted national ranking. The other four magazines foresee OU as finishing 5th, 9th or 10th, and one has Oklahoma winning the national title. (The other four magazines see Alabama as the national champ.)

Sooner in Afghanistan Former OU basketball star Caton Hill is serving in Afghanistan until this fall. She's now a captain and a surgeon (OU medical school) in the Army.

Plan to return next year

Sooner basketball players lend Haiti a helping hand

Two dozen Sooners were in earthquake-stricken Haiti a few weeks ago. Present were members of OU's women's basketball team, some assistant coaches and support staff.

Head Coach Sherri Coale was unable to go because of the duties her job requires.

Just a few weeks after their Final Four appearance, the Oklahoma contingent was there to help in a variety of ways some of that country's people recover from the shock and devastation.

The trip was planned even before the earthquake. Adam Barnett, a male former practice player and now college missions pastor at Journey Church in Norman, had contacted the Sooner women basketball players looking for items to sell to raise money.

The money was to go to the Mission of Hope, a community in Haiti that serves people in need of food, medical attention and supplies. The mission operates an orphanage, school, church and medical clinic.

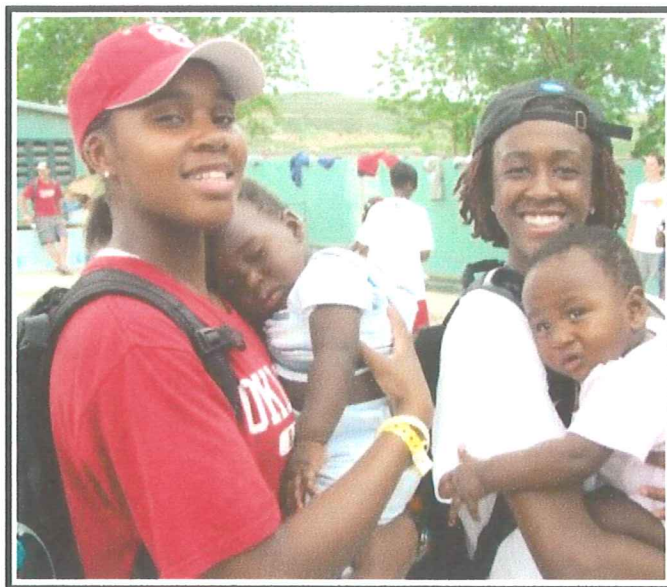
By the time the earthquake occurred, the OU group already was planning to go to Haiti. The day after spring finals, the group departed Norman.

On arriving, the Sooners found destruction far beyond the capability of news reports to convey. But they also found a resilient, optimistic people.

And the incidents of heart-warming human contact were numerous.

Jenni Carlson, sportswriter for *The Daily Oklahoman*, reported one experience by Carlee Roethlisberger, senior forward.

Carlee recalled picking up one of the



— *The Daily Oklahoman*

SOONERS IN HAITI — Oklahoma basketball players Jasmine Hartman, left, and Danielle Robinson offer comfort to a couple of Haitian children. The OU athletes were among some two dozen volunteers who went to Haiti recently.

children around the Mission of Hope and letting him sit in her lap. The little boy with a hole in one shoe promptly fell fast asleep in her lap.

Nothing woke him up, Carlee recalled. Not the oppressive heat, nor the Creole singing.

"To know that he could find comfort with me, that he could rest and wake up



Roethlisberger around his friends, was really cool," Carlee said. The Oklahoma contingent sorted unopened boxes of medical supplies, helped with construction of a new guest

house, worked in the nursery, played with children, practiced with the school's basketball team and talked with some of the high school classes. The team, its coaches and support staff plan to return again next year. Perhaps after another Final Four appearance.

OU Club of Austin
1905 Shadow Brook Circle
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Noble Natural History Museum notes 10th birthday

More than 1.6 million visitors have passed through the doors since the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History opened in May 2000.

Of these, 42 per cent were children. Visitors came from all 77 counties of Oklahoma, all 50 states and several

foreign countries.

The museum traces its history back 111 years, when the territorial legislature established the institution in 1899. Collections were kept in various locations through the first century of the museum's existence, find-

ing a semblance of a home in the old Stovall Museum on Asp Street from 1947 until 1999.

Sooner magazine, writing of the museum's new home recently, recalled that at last funding was secured to build a fitting home for the museum.

Norman voters OK'd a \$5 million bond issue. The state chipped in another \$15 million and the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Samedan Oil Corp. and Noble Drilling Co. added another \$10 million. Then some \$12 million more was raised from other private sources.

Regardless of your interests, the museum will pique your interest.

Calendar of events

Nomination of officers for 2010-11	Sat.-Fri July 17-23	See details on the front page
Voting to be conducted for 2010-11 officers	Sat.-Fri July 24-30	See details on the front page
Pre-season kickoff dinner	Sept. 2 Thursday	TBA
1st watch party of 2010 football (Utah St.)	Sept. 4 Saturday	Marriott Hotel, 2600 La Frontera Blvd. (near Tx 45 between MoPac and I-35)
Central Texas College Fair	October dates TBA	TBA



CLUB OF AUSTIN

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work No. _____

E-mail address _____ Fax _____

Areas of interest _____

Membership dues: \$25 a year • \$35 for a family NEW RENEWAL

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